

QA-190  
Sylvester Farm  
Queen Anne vicinity  
Private

2nd quarter 19th century

This frame dwelling is primarily significant as a surviving example of a four bay, double-parlor plan house, a form that is not common in Queen Anne's County. Among the interior detailing of this house, the two first floor mantels and four-door cupboard are of interest, as are the exposed joist ceiling and the horizontal wainscoting of the wing.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Sylvester Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West side of Maryland Route 309

CITY, TOWN

Queen Anne

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Sylvester Farms, Inc.

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Queen Anne

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21657

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: TSP 71

Folio #: 473

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

QA-190

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This frame house is located 1/4 mile to the north of the main house on the Sylvester Farm, also known as Partnership (see QA-170). It faces east toward Maryland Route 309, and lies approximately 1 1/2 miles northwest of Queen Anne. Large shade trees surround the house, and several outbuildings and two large farm buildings lie to the north and west.

The house is one-and-one-half stories high, four bays wide, and one room deep, with a smaller story-and-a-half frame wing on the north gable that is three bays wide, and slightly narrower than the main house. A one story shed roof addition projects from the two north bays of the rear facade of the main house, and a modern screen porch covers most of the rear facade of the wing. Flush brick chimneys are centered at each end of the pitched roof on the main house, and a single chimney with an exposed back is centered on the north gable of the wing.

The entrance is located in the second bay from the north end of the main house, and consists

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

of a Victorian paneled door with an original three-light transom. There is one six-over-six window to the right of the door and two to the left. Two six-over-six dormer windows with pitched roofs are located on the second floor.

On the south gable, two six-light casement windows flanking the chimney in the upper gable are the only openings.

The two northernmost bays of the rear facade are covered by a modern addition, leaving a pair of six-over-six windows exposed in the two south bays. A pair of dormer windows with six-over-six sash are located on the second floor, corresponding to the dormers on the front facade.

The north gable of the original house is almost entirely covered by the later wing, leaving only a short section of blank wall surface exposed at the northwest corner.

The front facade of the wing is flush with the front facade of the main house. The fenestration is not symmetrical, with the door located to the left of center, flanked by six-over-six windows. There are two six-over-six pitched roof dormers on the second floor.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

On the north gable of the wing, the first four feet of the chimney back is exposed, while the remainder is covered by the siding. Two small two-over-two windows flank the chimney in the upper gable.

The fenestration on the rear facade of the wing has been altered somewhat, now consisting of a door near the center, with one six-over-six window to the left, and two modern six-over-six windows to the right.

The house has undergone a major renovation in recent years. In addition to the rear addition previously mentioned, the house was set on a new continuous brick foundation and covered with aluminum siding. The early box cornice remains on both the main house and the wing. The crown mold appears to be original, but the bed mold is new. The original beaded and tapered rakeboards also remain on both buildings. The roofs are asphalt shingle.

The interior of the main house has been altered somewhat, but the original double parlour plan is still clearly defined, and considerable early woodwork has also survived. Most significant of the remaining woodwork is the mantel on the north gable wall and a paneled cupboard to the left of the fireplace.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

The mantel consists of a board surround with plain blocks supporting a shelf with Greek moldings. The cupboard to the left is built in and has four raised panel doors. The mantel in the south room has a fluted surround, bullseye corner blocks, and a shelf with a complex molding. All interior doors have raised panels with panel molds typical of the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

The present stair is modern, and runs in a straight flight along the south wall of the north room, rising from the rear of the house. The west wall in this room has been removed, opening it up into the modern rear addition. Based on seams found in the flooring on the second floor, the original stair was apparently a tight, enclosed winder located in the southwest corner of the south room.

The second floor has a center hall plan that certainly appears to be original. Beaded baseboard remains throughout the second floor, and the door surrounds on the hall partitions are of the proper configuration to be original. The presence of a central hall suggests the possibility that the scar in the south room may not be the result of an

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

early stair, and the present stair may have simply replaced the original stair. Unfortunately this conflict cannot be resolved with the limited evidence available.

It is uncertain whether the two second floor chambers were heated originally. It seems probable that the south room had a small fireplace, and a mantel stored in the loft of the granary nearby is similar in style to those remaining in place on the first floor. The north room was probably unheated.

The first floor of the wing is divided into two rooms, with the south room now serving as a kitchen, and the north room as a storeroom. The north room has never been renovated or modernized, and retains the original exposed joist ceiling. Both the joists and floorboards above are whitewashed, and the walls are finished with horizontal, unbeaded wainscoting and plaster applied with machine lathing and machine nails. There is a rough brick fireplace in the center of the gable wall, and a steep companionway stair to the left of the fireplace leads to the second floor.

The second floor is also divided into two rooms, but the door between the two rooms has been blocked

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.5 DESCRIPTION

off. The south room now serves as a bedroom, and is reached through the north bedroom of the main house, while the north room of the wing is a storeroom, and is rarely used. The beaded batten door which once connected the two rooms is still in place, but can no longer be opened. The north room is unfinished, leaving the rafters and roof boards exposed.



PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This frame dwelling is primarily significant as a surviving example of a four bay, double-parlour plan house, a form that is not common in Queen Anne's County. It bears an interesting resemblance to Ford's Landing (QA-27), a house on the Chester River with similar fenestration, plan, and woodwork. Ford's Landing was changed from a pitched roof to a gambrel at an early date, however, and this dwelling may be a fairly close representation of the original appearance of that house. Among the interior details of this house, the two first floor mantels and the four-door cupboard are of interest, as are the exposed joist ceiling and the horizontal wainscoting in the wing.

Dating evidence is largely concealed in both the original house and the wing, and the most useful visible clues are provided by the woodwork, which is typical of the second quarter of the 19th

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

century. Although this could easily be a result of a major renovation during that period, it seems probable that the mantels are original, giving an approximate date for the house of 1825-1850. The wing could be original, or may be a mid-19th century addition.

The machine sawn plaster lathing held with machine nails on the first floor is the other visible dating evidence. This would suggest a post-1840 date, but could also be a result of later improvements.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

QA-190

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

12/29/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

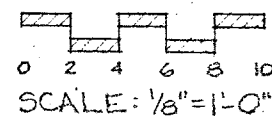
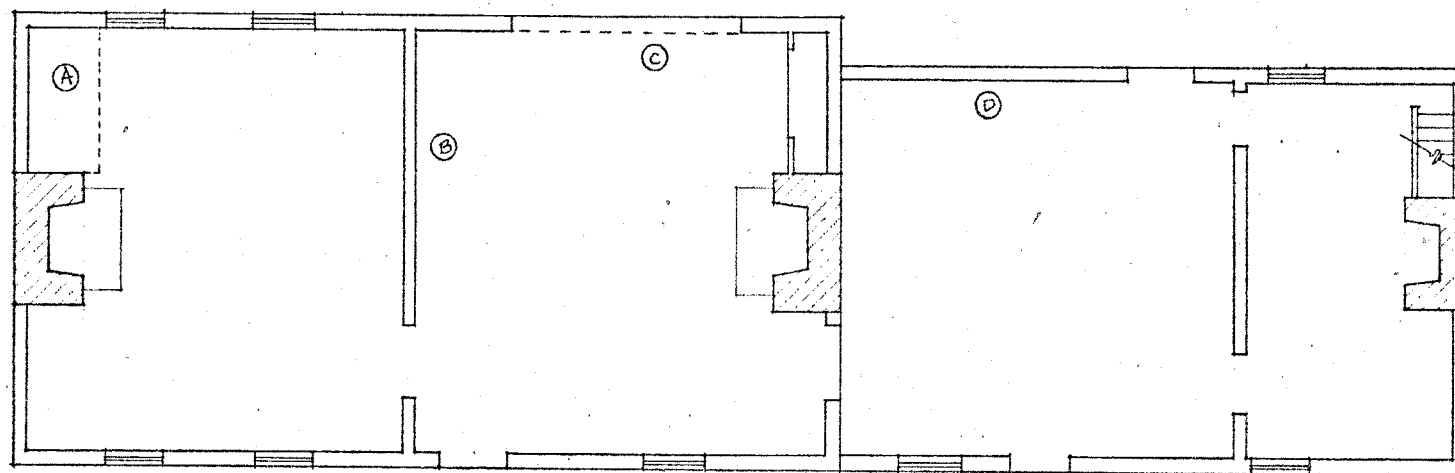
Maryland 21617

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

- A PROBABLE LOCATION OF ORIGINAL STAIR
- B LOCATION OF MODERN STAIR
- C REAR WALL OPENED UP INTO MODERN ADDITION
- D MODERN KITCHEN WINDOW

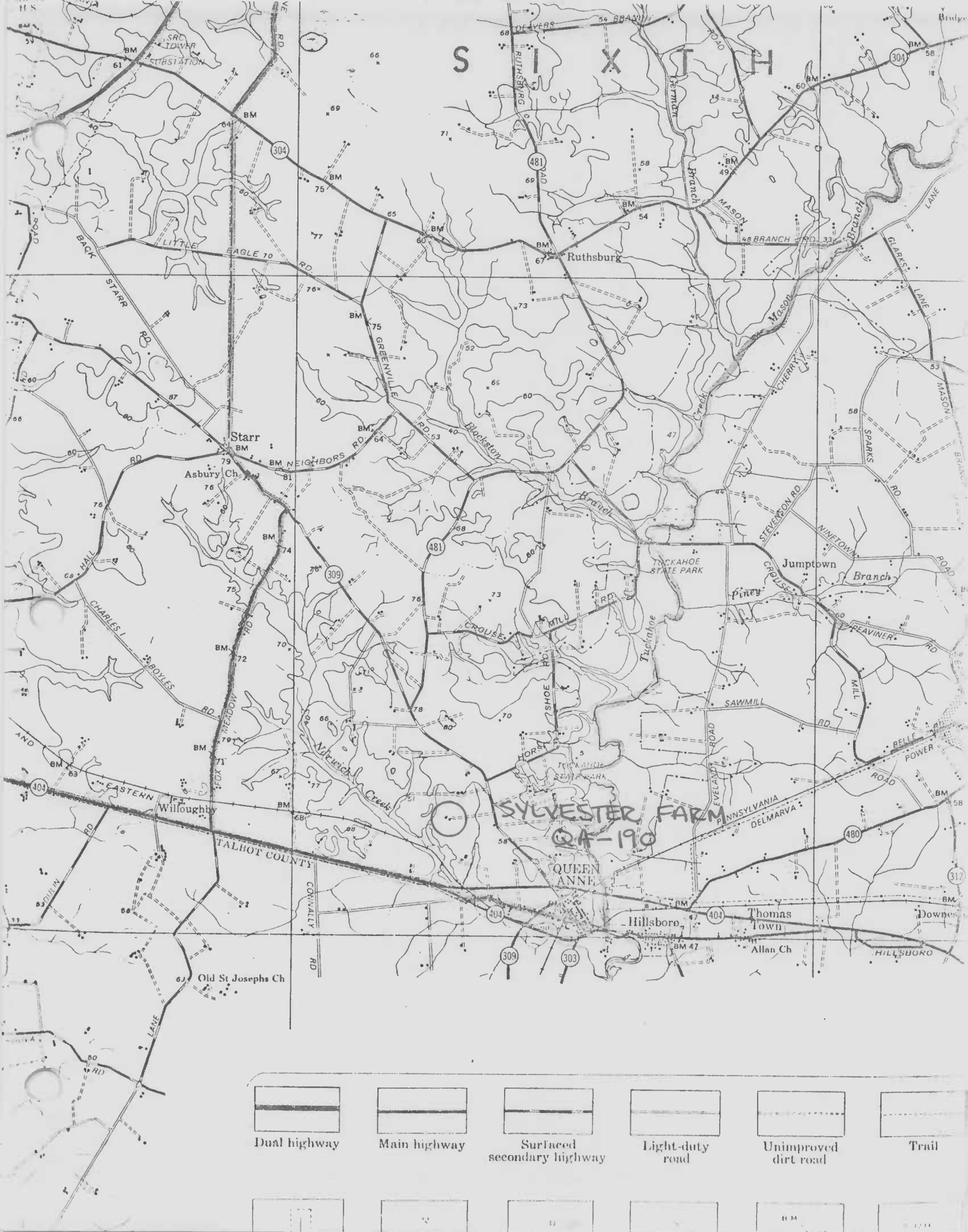


ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-190

SYLVESTER FARM  
QUEEN ANNE, MARYLAND

AUGUST 29, 1978



S I X T H

- Dual highway
- Main highway
- Surfaced secondary highway
- Light-duty road
- Unimproved dirt road
- Trail

QA-190  
Sylvester Farm

Mary McCarthy  
Spring/Summer 2003  
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-190





QA-190